

Pacific Pride

For the Families and Friends of Marines and Sailors of the 11th MEU Command Element



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‘Devil Docs’ celebrate 108th birthday with desert luau

CAMPBUEHRING, Kuwait (June 17, 2006) — Sailors from various units currently stationed at Camp Buehring joined together to commemorate the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps’ 108th birthday with a luau-themed party at the mess hall here.

Corpsmen and guests from here and from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), enjoyed food, music, Tahitian-hula dancers, and a raffle with prizes during the celebration.

Corpsmen serve as medical personnel for the Navy. Since the Marine Corps has no medical personnel, the corpsmen serve them as well.

“The birthday celebration of the Hospital Corps symbolizes the proud traditions that we as corpsman carry,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Don O. Bradshaw, hospital corpsman, Command Element. “We’re in a MEU. We are corpsmen that are in the Marine Fleet, which is different from being with the Navy.”

“We’re sailors, we joined the Navy. But being a corpsman means that we will probably spend more time with Marines than sailors,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Hyung Lee, senior line corpsman, Company C,



Master Chief Michael J. Smith digs in.

Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 11th MEU (SOC).

Lee, who has been in the Navy for more than four years, has spent his entire enlistment as a corpsman for a Marine Corps infantry unit. Never once has he been on the blue side (stationed with a Navy unit). “When I go home and people ask me what I do for

the Navy, it’s difficult to answer.”

Because of the close relationships between the two, corpsmen are often referred to as “Devil Docs,” which is an obvious parallel to the Marines’ moniker “Devil Dogs.”

“It’s times like these that remind us about the heroics of corpsmen before us: World War I and WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and how we are a part of them. We’re part of that tradition,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Ivan G. Krimker, corpsman, 2nd platoon, Company A, BLT 1/4.

“A lot people may not know it but a corpsman has two jobs, especially if they’re with a line company,” said Cpl. Joseph Casillas, squad leader, 1st platoon, Company C, BLT 1/4. During the BLT’s last deployment, while fighting insurgents on the streets of Najaf, Iraq, corpsmen with the battalion would act as riflemen. “We acknowledge them as corpsmen, as the ones who will treat our injuries. But we also acknowledge them as one of us; one of the guys from the platoon,” said Casillas.

“It’s a privilege to be a corpsman, to fight alongside with Marines,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Ramon B. Debelen, corpsman, 1st platoon, Co. A, BLT 1/4. I’m proud to be a corpsman.”

From the Commanding Officer

Families and friends,

Although the last six weeks have been very busy and challenging for the Marines and Sailors of the 11th MEU (SOC), our spirits remain high as we

approach the end in our deployment. Recently completing our backload onto the Peleliu from Camp Buehring, Kuwait, we expect the last couple months of deployment to speed by as our training continues during the next several weeks.

While at Camp Buehring Marines and Sailors continued to sharpen and hone their skills through a comprehensive sustainment training package which involved weapons live-fire, fire support coordination, aviation training, that emphasized platoon level tactics. The training period offered all-inclusive and realistic live-fire training on remote training ranges on Udairi Range.

While the “grunts” were in the field, Marines and Sailors with the MEU’s Command Element were supporting the troops in the field, monitoring all aspects of live-fire training, and planning the complex mission of retrograding 2,000 Marine and Sailors back to PELESG shipping. Additionally, Command Element enlisted Marines and Sailors went on a six mile conditioning hike on Camp Buehring—quite the feat when you think about the scorching Kuwaiti heat.

On a different note, after nearly three months of working non-stop, on June 26, the USS Peleliu pulled into port at Jebel Ali, which is a large commercial port south of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. The Peleliu’s stop in Jebel Ali allowed the ship to conduct some routine maintenance and gave Marines and Sailors the opportunity to refresh their minds and bodies. While in port, the Marines and sailors had the opportunity to enjoy the water park, attend safaris, ride camels, shop and shop at the famous Gold and Spice Souks at this beautiful port. All enjoyed this well deserved time off.

As we remain on schedule for an August homecoming, there is still much to be done as we begin the transit east back to San Diego. The Marines remained focused on the tasks at hand, though thoughts of home are always near. I hope this letter finds you and your family doing well. If everything remains on track, we’ll see you in August!

Semper Fidelis,

Col. J.W. Bullard

S6 Marines conduct real-world training

By Master Sgt. Mathis B. Richard, S6 Chief

The Marines of the S6 have been busy as ever. After departing Kuwait, the MEU participated in Exercise Eagle Resolve. The exercise focused on how the MEU would support a Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation. A team of Marines led by Sgt. Attikus Piper, with Cpl. Anthony Taylor, and Lance Cpl. Justin Schoonover, had a unique opportunity to operate from the American Embassy in Doha, Qatar, and got a rare look at life inside the embassy. The training value of this was enormous for them as they were able to operate as they would in a real world scenario. Cpl. Joshua Langston also participated as he accompanied Charlie Company, Battalion Landing Team 1/4, as they practiced securing the embassy and processing American civilians for movement out of the country. The exercise was very successful in demonstrating the MEU's capabilities as well as honing our skills.

Shortly after this exercise, the MEU was sent back to Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Our return to Kuwait was a welcome opportunity for the Marines to operate their equipment and improve their skills. The S6 sent a few Marines as part of the advance party in order to begin coordinating local support and to provide communication back to the ships. Cpl. Marilyn Zeledon was instrumental in providing data connectivity as well as coordinating with the Army for local data communication.

Once ashore, the S6 sprang into action to bring up radios, install data communication and phone lines for the MEU. Once power was established, Staff Sgt. Todd Drummond setup his equipment and began coordinating communication links. Sgt. Andrew Wark configured data routers and supervised the data team while Lance Cpl. Tyler Chapin installed the data servers. Sgt. Walter Simonds implemented the phone and switchboard plan, as Cpl. William Cruz operated the Global Broadcasting System, which provided a live Fox News broadcast to key personnel and imagery to the MEU's Intelligence section.

At the same time the Marines of the radio section erected antennas and



Marines from the Command Element's communications section return from a hike during desert sustainment training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait June 10.

radios to provide radio communication to the staff. This included establishing a network of radio retransmission sites that provided communication to all of the training ranges, allowing units in the field the ability to communicate. The Radio Marines were everywhere at every time and it is impossible to name all the Marines that stood out. Notably though, Lance Cpls. Eric Gonzalez, David Gonzalez, and Anthony Cardinal were always in the middle of the action.

Once everything was up and running, the Marines began the routine of standing watches while participating in valuable training. During their off time the Marines were able to enjoy the fine facilities of Camp Buehring. The gym, internet cafe and chow halls were outstanding as always. When the weather wasn't too hot, the Marines took full advantage of the camp's Morale Welfare and Recreation centers' basketball and volleyball courts. The Marines stayed very active despite the temperatures, which occasionally reached upwards of 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

One highlight during the time ashore was providing Morale Video Tele-Conferencing to families in the Camp Pendleton area. The Marines of the S6 coordinated with several units aboard Camp Buehring and Camp Pendleton to support this event. Families were able to see and talk to their loved ones for the first time in nearly four months. Several

Marines and Sailors saw new babies for the first time, and many a child got to do a little singing for Mom or Dad. The effort was incredibly rewarding for the Marines of the S6.

At the end of a month that seemed to fly by, the Marines began to return to our ships. Cpl. Daniel Deskins had the daunting task of overseeing the embarkation of the section's large amount of equipment. With all of the equipment back on ship, the Marines got some overdue liberty and a chance to relax in the United Arab Emirates. Following that we began the long journey home. With many challenges still ahead of us, the Marines remain focused on being ready to support any mission on the route back.

Congratulations are in order for many of the Marines in the S6. We have two newly promoted corporals, Cpl. Thomas Zinninger and Cpl. Andre Thomas, who was meritoriously promoted by the MEU Commander. Sgt. Anthony Hodge was selected to be a Drill Instructor after this deployment, the recruits don't know what is coming. Staff Sts. Earl Blue III and Michael Webb continued to show their commitment to the Corps by reenlisting. Finally, Staff Sgt. David Boudreau was selected for promotion to Gunnery Sergeant. Congratulations to all of our Marines who have distinguished themselves during this period.

Chaplain's Corner

Spirit, Move Me!


By Lt. Cmdr. Bill Cantrell, chaplain

Do you ever get up in the morning, or whenever it is that you get out of bed, and the last thing you want to do is go to work? My mother often spoke the words, "Spirit, move me!" after a short nights sleep while trying to muster the energy for a new long day of being a mother, wife and employee. For some people there are times when getting out of bed and living another day is the last thing they want to do. That may seem a bit extreme for you, and I think it is fair to say that most of us live a fair distance short of that much pain. But the point is that there are days when you get up and all you can think of is that it would be a really good day for the end times to begin! You know, those days where our burdens and concerns seem to have taken on more weight than normal, where the load is more than we want to carry through the day.

Look with me at how we can handle these moments. Romans 5:3-6 is a great testimony to the reality of our lives as believers in God. Right from the beginning Paul lets us know in verse 3 that sufferings are a part of life. But just before that he tells us that we should rejoice in these sufferings; our depression, our emotional pitfalls, the general hurt in our lives. Mind you that this is Godly suffering, but not necessarily persecution. This is day to day stuff.

Romans 5:3-5 *Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.*

As stated, when we do suffer we should rejoice. A spiritual process is activated in our lives when we respond to God in our suffering. When we turn to God at the point of our suffering something we do not see, but



The 11th MEU (SOC) welcomes new Chaplain

Lt. Cmdr. William C. Cantrell, the 11th MEU's new chaplain lives in Las Vegas and serves as an associate priest at St. George's Anglican Church. He is originally from the Dallas - Ft. Worth area. His endorsement for military chaplaincy is through the Episcopal Church.

Prior to coming on board with the MEU, he was stationed at Al Asad, Iraq with MWSG-37 out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego.

According to Cantrell, his stay with the MEU will only be temporary. Once the MEU returns to Honolulu, he will return to Iraq to finish his deployment. He also serves in the Navy Reserve and is the commanding officer of a Marine Expeditionary Force Religious Ministry Team or MEFREL, from Phoenix, AZ. This is a "pool" of chaplains and religious program specialists who train to deploy with Marines.

"Whether their mission is in the streets of Iraq or on station, it is my hope to instill a sense of the presence of God among the Marines. With God's help, I can help them better understand their purpose, their value and encourage them in the midst of trying times. I have always considered it an honor to serve with Marines," said Cantrell. "This is my third tour with Marines and my fourth deployment. While I have never supported a MEU, I know the challenges of long separations and long days and the blessing of such a unique experience shared among those who have volunteered to serve their country."

thoroughly experience, begins to take place. We grow from the inside out through a self-perpetuating cycle of hope.

With our faces pointed away from ourselves and toward God we build stamina in our Faith by persevering. Then we build character because we choose by the power of God to not sin during our suffering, which in turn gives us hope. That hope points us to the future and reminds us that there is a promise that it will some day soon all be over, and we will live eternally with our Lord God.

I know that it is sometimes ridiculous to think that just because you are a "Believer" you can somehow always suck it up and put on the happy face. But look at verse six. God, who gives us hope, does so in the times when we have no

power, in the times when it is all but impossible to get up and put on the happy face.

If you will look to God when you lack such ability you will find the strength to carry on. God's atoning death began a cycle of hope way back on the cross of Calvary that waits for you and me to draw from it in our times of need. That is how and why we can rejoice. When we experience pain the cycle just keeps on going and never stops. It all begins with hope and results in hope!

For this reason God is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Firstborn over all creation, the King of Kings, the Living Water, the Bread of Life; He is our one and only Hope!

S4, Supply Marines backload the MEU, head for home

By Maj. Kevin C. Rosen, S4 Officer

Many congratulations go out this month to the Marines and families of the S4 shop. First off, we had two Marines re-enlist: Gunnery Sgt. Garcia and Staff Sgt. Serrano. Master Sgt. Savant was well deservedly promoted on the 1st of June. Finally, Cpl. Dean is the proud father of a beautiful baby girl.

Master Sgt. Savant, Gunnery Sgt. Garcia and Cpl. Dean headed back to the states in order to prepare for the MEU's return home in August. We know that they have quite the job ahead of them to make sure our FINAL! off-load is a successful one.

The Marines continued to train hard and learned desert survival and refined their war-fighting skills. More importantly, the Supply Marines became familiar with driving a stick-shift. Kuwait was a great place to learn since the speed limit on Camp Buehring was only 12 miles-an-hour. Sgt. Scrivens made a few friends with the camels on the highways of Kuwait while traveling between the various camps to make sure the necessary supply support was taken care of.

The Capts "F" keep things pretty interesting. Capt. Fitzgerald was the overall female and only lost the overall title of the "Sears Tower Challenge" on the Stairmaster by a few seconds (she was robbed!). Capt Fleischhacker continues to lose her battles with cots and other inanimate objects but has successfully practiced self-aid a few times.

Making an impact as Master Sgt. Savant's right hand man is Staff Sgt. Cantu who arrived right before the previous back-load with just enough time to say hello before he was learning all about embarkation at Kuwait Naval Base.

The off-load and back load were hugely successful because of the team that we had leading the effort. Capt. Ekborg has led a great team of Marines to get the job done for the entire MEU. Also, Sgt. Lomeli was promoted to staff sergeant July 1. Again, congratulations on a well deserved promotion.

We are looking forward to the future port calls along the way, but more importantly seeing you all around the middle of August. That's if for now. Only one more newsletter to go until we are back in sunny San Diego.



Staff Sgts. Antonio Serrano and Jose L. Lomeli, S4 section, along with Gunnery Sgt. James Gilroy, enjoy a brief rest at Kuwait Naval Base in June.

Hospital Corpsmen look back on 108 years of proud service to the 'Corps'

By HMCM Michael J. Smith, MEU Medical Planner

June 17th marked the 108th birthday of the United States Navy Hospital Corps. Few military organizations can look upon their history with the same degree of pride and, in some cases awe, as can members of the Navy Hospital Corps. In over a century of service, the Hospital Corps has proven itself ready to support Marines and Sailors by giving them aid whenever and wherever necessary. As the years have progressed, the tools and techniques used by Hospital Corpsmen and their forerunners have evolved, but the level of dedication has remained a strong current running through the Corps' History.

The Hospital Corps came into existence as an organized unit of the medical department under the provision of an act of Congress approved 17 June 1898. Throughout the years, we've gone by many names: loblolly boy, surgeon's steward,

apothecary and Pharmacist's mate. Today, as hospital Corpsman, we are the Navy's largest rating with over 23000 active and 6000 reserve Corpsman currently serving. Wherever you find the Navy, wherever you find the Marine Corps, there you will find the Navy Hospital Corpsman. In times of peace, he or she toils unceasingly day and night, providing quality care to numerous beneficiaries. In times of war, they are on the beaches with the Marines, employed in amphibious operations, in transportation of wounded by air, on the battlefield, and on all types of ships, submarines, and aircraft. In short, wherever medical services may be required, the hospital corpsman is there, not only willing but also prepared to serve his or her country and his fellow man above and beyond the call of duty. Congratulations to all the Corpsmen of the 11TH MEU (SOC) and to all U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsmen worldwide.

Command Element bids farewell to SJA, welcomes new “Judge” to 11th MEU



Much has happened in the Staff Judge Advocate Section of the 11th MEU (SOC) in the past month. First, Maj. Walters returned to CONUS from Kuwait in May after two and a half years with the MEU. He was selected for TJAGSA (Army Judge Advocate School in Charlottesville, Va.) in order to obtain his LLM (advanced law degree). He will be missed. He was replaced on May 24 by Maj. L. J. Francis. Maj. Francis PCA'd from the LSSS, 1MLG, Camp Pendleton. Major Francis had been the Senior Defense Counsel at Camp Pendleton for the last 18 months before joining the 11th MEU.

Major Francis joined the 11th MEU at Camp Beuring, Kuwait. “The work has been steady. In just the month I have been with the 11th MEU, I have been exposed to many different legal issues, i.e. legal assistance, rules of engagement, claims and contractual issues.”



Happy July Birthdays

Lance Cpl. Eric B. Gonzales
Lance Cpl. David A. Gonzalez
Cpl. Dean B. Howes
Staff Sgt. Melinda L. Hurst
Sgt. John H. Knospler
WO Nathan G. Lampert
Cpl. Joshua D. Langston
Staff Sgt. Jose L. Lomeli
Maj. Thomas F. Marble
SgtMaj. Willie F. Metoyer
Sgt. Attikus W. Piper

Gunnery Sgt. James H. Ramirez
Cpl. John A. Saltares
Lance Cpl. Justin D. Schoonover
Lt. Col. Neil C. Schuehle
Sgt. Jamie M. Scrivens
Staff Sgt. Antonio Serrano
Sgt. Jason A. Souva
Gunnery Sgt. Sammy S. Supnet
Lt. Col. Frank D. Topley
Lance Cpl. Jason A. Webster

Congratulations

June Promotions

Master Sgt. Brian D. Savant
Staff Sgt. Leif A. Paul
Cpl. Irene Chan
Cpl. Brittney L. Carrington
Cpl. Dean B. Howes
Cpl. Justin P. Mullins
Cpl. Zaneta E. Smith
Cpl. Andre D. Thomas
Cpl. Thomas J. Zinninger
Pfc. Jesus D. Talamantes

July Promotions

Staff Sgt. Melinda L. Hurst
Staff Sgt. Jose L. Lomeli
Sgt. Nicholas D. Jones
Lance Cpl. Krystal D. Venning

S1 Marines' experience whirlwind month of June

By Lance Cpl. Brittney L. Carrington

June has been a whirlwind of a month for the S1 Marines. At the end of May, while we were headed to Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates, for some well-earned liberty, duty called. The MEU was ordered to return to Kuwait in order to potentially move into Iraq. The S1 Marines quickly packed up all of our gear and we headed ashore, back to Camp Buehring. It turned out to be an extended stay in the desert this time and with a future full of uncertainty, training and honing our skills remained first and foremost in everyone's minds. Some of the training highlights included: a Day and Night Convoy Course, a Rules of Engagement Class (taught by the MEU Staff Judge Advocate), Improvised Explosive Device training, an HMMWV Egress Assistance Exercise, an Entry Control Point simulation and a Desert Survival Class. As a part of the 11th MEU(SOC)'s High-Risk Personnel Protection Detachment, Cpl. Joshua Chapman and Cpl. Salvador Verduzco participated in Dismount Training, Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection courses and Advance Combat Life Savers training.

In addition to participating in the MEU Sergeant's Major motivating 10.5K hike and several "Moto" runs around the camp, many of the S1 Marines competed in the numerous physical fitness contests that the Camp Buehring Gym sponsored. Of note, Sgt. Rodney Redhead brought home two gold medals for winning the bench press and curl competitions and Capt. Ed Tomlinson placed third overall for the men in the stair-stepping challenge.

Life in the desert was not all work, however. The majority of the S1 Marines took advantage of the two opportunities to travel to Camp Arifjan for a day of shopping at the exchanges, swimming and sunbathing at the pool, and sampling foods from a variety of restaurants, not to mention a Starbucks (it was not a mirage, folks). The trips to Arifjan provided a pleasant change of scenery for all.

Now that we've returned to the USS Peleliu, we are all



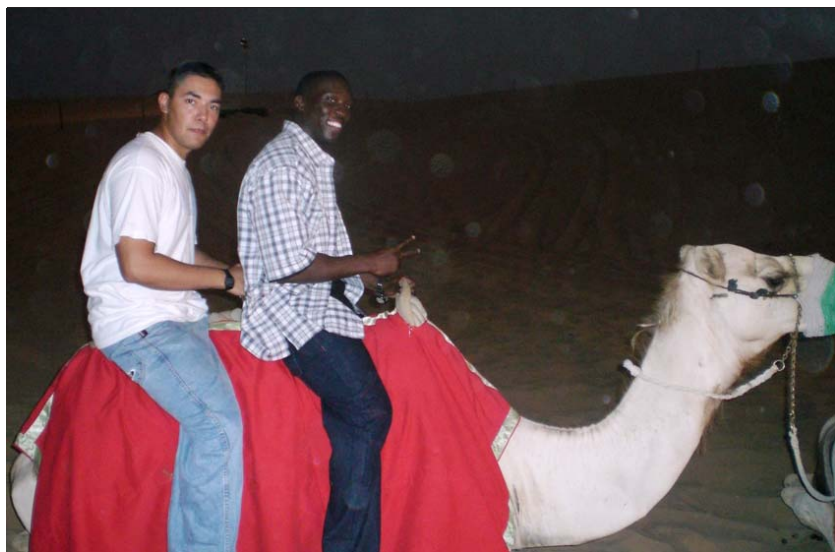
S1 Marines and other command element Marines take part in a cultural tour in Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates in June.

looking forward to finally visiting a few liberty ports in the upcoming months. It will be exciting to experience these different cultures and to make some life-long memories.

The S1 section would like to welcome two new members to the team: Maj. Leon Francis, who recently assumed the duties as the MEU's Staff Judge Advocate; and Lt. Cmdr. William Cantrell, who will be serving as the MEU's Chaplain for the remainder of the deployment while Lt. Cmdr. Paul Shaughnessy is providing religious support to I Marine Expeditionary Force (Fwd)'s Marines and sailors in Iraq.

Lastly, Sgt. Rodney Redhead celebrated his birthday June 24, be sure to wish him a happy one when you see him. He will be busy serving as the S1 representative on the advance party and will be arriving in Camp Pendleton in the near future.

Thank you all for keeping us in your thoughts and for your unwavering support.



(Lft-Rt) Cpls. Salvador Verduzco and Sinclair Harrell, administration clerks, take a ride on a camel in Jebel Ali while Capt. Ed B. Tomlinson, adjutant, gets ready to take a boat river tour in Dubai during the MEU's visit to the United Arab Emirates in June.

Intel Marines get pistol, rifle refresher, IED training in Kuwait

May and June kept things interesting for the S-2 section as we redeployed into Kuwait shortly after concluding our previous training there. This time, the MEU was going ashore to be a reserve force for Iraq. The offload in Kuwait came as something of a surprise, but regardless, the majority of the Marines were glad to be back on land again in the land of the big gym, good chow halls, phones, no bunks, and Green Beans Coffee.

Marines of the section stayed busy with a variety of activities. Many S2 Marines were able to participate in further training designed to build skills and proficiency important for an Iraq deployment. Examples of this training included the HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT) that taught Marines how to survive a vehicle roll-over, Desert Survival, training on how to identify and deal with Improvised Explosive Devices and training in day and night-time convoy operations.



Staff Sgt. George W. Mills, S2 section, goes out for a morning jog at Camp Buehring, Kuwait in June.



The “coolest” people we know. (A.K.A. the S2 Section) at Camp Buehring, Kuwait in June.

Radio Battalion detachment didn't have to set up a tent on its own this time, as the S-2 section scored half of a headquarters tent that it only shared with the S-6 section. To keep the riff-raff out, they quickly had some walls built that included a door with sliding peep window. Of course, the peep window was built for someone about 5' 10" and the “average” height of RadBn Marines is about 5' 8”, but it was still pretty good work. The Operations Control Element was able to reestablish the satellite communications it had during our last visit, and was able to make some noteworthy accomplishments this float that are a first for deploying MEUs. The collection teams also stayed busy with a variety of training, duties, and support to other operations.

Meanwhile, Marines of the analysis and productions section worked on a variety of intelligence briefings and products to build our understanding of likely places we might be called to deploy to while METOC continued to provide those quality forecasts. Fortunately, we didn't have a sandstorm, rainstorms, or locust plagues like our last visit, but it was hot. You know it's hot when METOC briefs “daytime temperatures will cool down to 104F tomorrow before rising to 116F later this week”. Despite the heat, Ground Sensor Platoon detachment did get off-base a few times to practice their Sensor operations.

Despite our main section focus of sustainment training and preparations to go North, several Marines had additional opportunities away from Camp Buehring. Three Marines, including two Arabic speakers assisted the Force Reconnaissance Platoon in training Iraqi Marines in Umm Qasr. The HET Chief continued his support to Navy security operations in the Northern Arabian Gulf, and three Marines deployed with Bravo Company of the Battalion Landing Team to Saudi Arabia to help train members of the Saudi armed forces.

The S2 would like to recognize 1stLt Newhouse, SSgt Paul, Cpl Chan, Cpl Mullins and Cpl Howes who were all promoted to their current ranks as of 1 June 2006. Lt Newhouse serves as the Assistant OIC for the Radio Battalion detachment. SSgt Paul serves as the Intelligence Marine attachment to 1st Force Reconnaissance Platoon. He spends most of his training shooting things and allegedly writing reports. But we haven't actually seen any yet.

The S2 would like to congratulate SSgt Vortmann and SSgt Mills for their selection to Gunnery Sergeant and thank SSgt Rossington, SSgt Paul and Sgt Hurst for their continued loyalty and service to the USMC by re-enlisting for another term. Every Marine within the S2 wishes to thank all for the continued support from friends, loved ones and families.

HQCMDT 'gym-a-holics' get in shape during desert training

During this last month the majority of our time was spent in Kuwait. We were living in luxury, enjoying the wonderful chow hall facility they have on Camp Buehring and enjoying some down time.

Master Sgt. Bonds continued his billet as Headquarters Commandant, ensuring that all Marines had a place to lay their heads, and ensuring all facilities were kept in working order. Master Sgt. Bonds also attended numerous meetings to find out what special events were taking place in the camp so that Marines could participate.

Staff Sgt. Lucio assisted by Sgt. Sparks maintained the operations side of motor transport, and ensured motor transport assets were in working order. They also prepared the vehicles for transport to Kuwait Naval Base and back to the ship. This included a good fresh-water vehicle wash down at KNB after the vehicles had been inspected by the Navy agriculture inspectors. During our transition back to the ship, Sgt. Sparks remained behind at KNB to load the trucks onto the landing craft utility that would transport them back to the ship.

Staff Sgt. Callahan continued his role as motor transport maintenance chief, ensuring all corrective maintenance was taken care of in a timely manner, which included a lot of paper work. He also drove the shuttle bus while in Kuwait so that Marines would not have to walk everywhere in the middle of the hot day.

Sgt. Guardado and Sgt. Alaniz helped maintain vehicles while at the camp and assisted in prepping them during retrograde back to the ship. Guardado was also the Embark NCO for our section and ensured all quad cons and pal cons (shipping containers) were properly loaded and ready to go back on the

S3 Marines conduct great training in Kuwait, keep MEU skills sharp

Greetings all. As you know by now the 11th MEU (SOC) had the opportunity to enjoy a return to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in late May for additional sustainment training. As usual everyone in the S3 shop put in long hours getting the operations center running and keeping it up 24/7. Above and beyond that Staff Sgt. Riglesberger and CWO3 Garcia ran the command element through a gamut of unit and individual level training, greatly enhancing the martial skills of all participants.

During this time in Kuwait, the MEU was visited by a number of distinguished guests, to include our commandant, Gen. Hagee, and the commander of CENTCOM, Gen. Abizaid.

Due to our return ashore, Exercise Nautical Union training with the Saudi's in Ras al Ghar was abbreviated slightly, but Exercise Edged Mallet in Kenya had to be rescheduled for another MEU.

After conducting some great training ashore in Kuwait, we have cleaned all of our gear and re-embarked on ESG shipping just in time to be met by all of the sections Father's Day care packages. Thank you all!



Staff Sgt. Robert B. Callahan, Headquarters Commandant Section, leads a section of Command Element Marines on a morning jog at Camp Buehring Kuwait in June.

ship. Alaniz also took part in lot of training with the High Risk Personnel Protection Detachment.

Sgt. Loftin continued his role as police sergeant ensuring all facilities in the living spaces and work areas were in working order. Sgt. Schauer, our armorer, had an armory facility constructed inside our tent in Kuwait to ensure security of our extra weapons. He also established an armory watch in the evening time. Cpl. Rodriguez was for the most part the CO's Driver. She also drove the bus the majority of the time while in Kuwait.

For the most part, the headquarters commandant section was very busy out in Kuwait. We continued to PT in the evening, played volleyball, basketball and hit the gym. Headquarters Commandant section "Best in the MEU and still Charging Hard".



CWO3 Robert T. Garcia, S3 section, instructs a Marine during an Entry Control Point training exercise in Kuwait in June.

We enjoyed a quick stop in the United Arab Emirates port of Jebel Ali before leaving the 5th Fleet AOR. From there it is a month-long trek to Hawaii, with a couple of port visits along the way. We very much look forward to talking to you all soon and even more to our homecoming.

Pacific *Pride*

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Life at Camp Buehring, Kuwait...



The 11th MEU visits the United Arab Emirates

Marines and Sailors of the 11th MEU (SOC) spent some well-deserved liberty in Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates. UAE is a country with a unique mixture of old-world customs and traditions and new world technology and conveniences. During their stay, Marines and Sailors visited a water park, went on cultural awareness tours, went shopping and enjoyed the local cuisine. UAE is one of the most modern and fastest growing countries in the Middle East.



Command Element training...





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Change of Address

If your address or phone number changes, please complete this form and mail it to the address below:

11TH MEU (PAO)
UNIT 42520
FPO AP 96610-2520

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Spouse: _____

Rank: _____

Unit/Company: _____

11th MEU Mailing Address:
GRADE NAME USMC
11TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT
UNIT 42520
FPO AP 96610-2520